LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1 (currently amended): Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility free from bald spots produced through a hot rolling and pickling step, comprising, by mass%,

C: 0.03 to 0.15%,	Si: 0.8 to 3.0%,
Mn: 0.5 to 3.0%,	P: 0.07% or less,
S: 0.01% or less,	Al: 0.015 to 0.1%,
N: 0.001 to 0.008%,	

and the balance of Fe and unavoidable impurities, the oxides on the steel sheet surface having, by mass%, an Si concentration of 3.5% or less and an Mn concentration of 3.5% or less, and

an average roughness Ra of the steel sheet surface is 3.0 μm or less and a number of pittings of a diameter of 1 μm to 0.3 μm due to the pickling is an average 5 or less in squares of the steel sheet surface when dividing it into squares of 10 μm per side.

2 (currently amended): Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility free from bald spots produced through a hot rolling and pickling step, comprising, by mass%,

C: 0.03 to 0.15%,	Si: 0.8 to 3.0%,
Mn: 0.5 to 3.0%,	P: 0.07% or less,
S: 0.01% or less,	Al: 0.015 to 0.1%,
N: 0.001 to 0.008%, and	

one or both of Ti: 0.02 to 0.3% and Nb: 0.01 to 0.5%, and

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one or more of:

Cu: 0.2 to 1.8% ~~and~~

Ni: 0.1 to 2.0%,

Mo: 0.05 to 0.5%,

B: 0.0002 to 0.006%, and

Ca: 0.0005 to 0.005%

~~alone or in combination~~ and a balance of Fe and unavoidable impurities, the oxides on the

steel sheet surface having, by mass%, an Si concentration of 3.5% or less and an Mn

concentration of 3.5% or less, <u>and</u>

<u>an average roughness Ra of the steel sheet surface is 3.0 μm or less and a</u>

<u>number of pittings of a diameter of 1 μm to 0.3 μm due to the pickling is an average 5 or less</u>

<u>in squares of the steel sheet surface when dividing it into squares of 10 μm per side</u>.

Claim 3: (canceled).

4 (withdrawn): A method of production of hot rolled steel sheet excellent in

chemical convertibility characterized by, in a pickling step when producing the hot rolled

steel sheet of claim 1, dipping the sheet in an aqueous solution having, by mass%, an HCl

concentration of 7 to 15%, an Fe ion concentration of 4 to 12%, and a balance of metal ions

other than Fe and impurities, at a solution temperature of 80 to 98°C for 40 sec or more.

5 (withdrawn and amended): A method of production of hot rolled steel sheet

excellent in chemical convertibility characterized by, in a pickling step when producing the

hot rolled steel sheet of claim ~~3~~ <u>1 or 2</u>, dipping the sheet in an aqueous solution having, by

mass%, an HCl concentration of 7 to 15%, an Fe ion concentration of 4 to 12%, and a

balance of metal ions other than Fe and impurities, at a solution temperature of 80 to 95°C for

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a time of a range of 40 sec or more to when the HCl concentration (mass%) x dipping time (sec) becomes 520 or less.

6 (withdrawn): A method of production of hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility as set forth in claim 4 or 5, characterized by said aqueous solution including, by mass%, 0.5 to 5% of HNO3.

7 (new): Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility free from bald spots according to claim 1 or 2, wherein, in a pickling step when producing the hot rolled steel sheet, further comprising the step of dipping the sheet in an aqueous solution having, by mass%, an HCl concentration of 7 to 15%, an Fe ion concentration of 4 to 12%, and a balance of metal ions other than Fe and impurities, at a solution temperature of 80 to 98°C for a time of 40 sec or more to when the HCl concentration (mass%) x dipping time (sec) becomes 520 or less.

8 (new): Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility free from bald spots according to claim 7, wherein said aqueous solution includes, by mass%, 0.5 to 5% of HNO3.

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